

August 1978

CC Anniversary Goes Over Big



These are 39 of the 61 employees who have worked at the Clinical Center 25 years or more. They each received a certificate and an engraved piece of marble from the old CC lobby.

Twenty-five years of research for people was the theme for the Clinical Center's Silver Anniversary celebration, held July 6 in the Jack Masur Auditorium. Dr. Mortimer B. Lipsett, CC Director, hosted an afternoon program that highlighted a quarter of a century of patient care and medical research at the Clinical Center and paid special tribute to the sixty-one employees who have worked at the Clinical Center since its opening.

Guest speaker Dr. Henry Sebrell, Director of NIH from 1950 through 1955 and internationally renowned researcher in nutrition, traced the evolution of the Clinical Center since 1953. He noted that while changes have occurred, the primary concerns of the Clinical Center have remained constant—that patient care would be the best in the world, and that at the same time, the patient would be contributing to knowledge in medicine. He reminded a sympathetic audience that two other problems have remained the same—funding allocation of space. In his talk, Dr. Sebrell pointed out that 60% of the reports coming from NIH between 1973 and 1975 were clinical, not laboratory, papers. This fact, he said, illus-

trates the importance of the Clinical Center, not only to NIH, but to medical research throughout the world. He spoke with pride of the construction of the new ambulatory care research addition, but emphasized that "the facilities are only incidental to the people who work at the Clinical Center and that the people are what makes the Clinical Center great."

Edith Jones, chief of the CC Nutrition Department and a 25-year veteran of the Clinical Center, talked on the changes that have occurred in the Clinical Center since her arrival. She reminisced about the years and the early problems of feeding employees as well as patients. She was particularly proud that 19 members of her staff have been at the Clinical Center for 25 years and thus received awards.

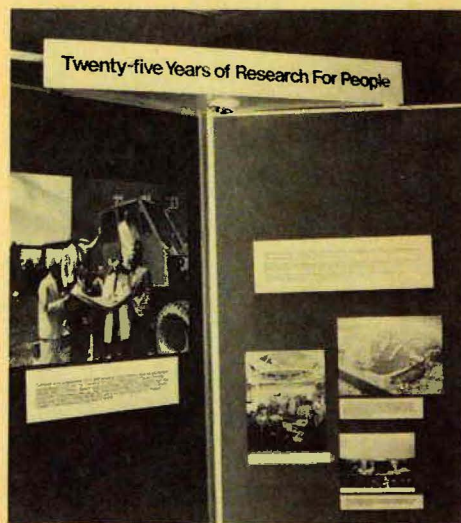
Dr. Lipsett showed photographs of some of the people in the Clinical Center who have made important medical discoveries. Four of these gained supreme international recognition in the world of biomedical science, the Nobel prize: Dr. Marshall W. Nirenberg, Dr. Julius Axelrod, Dr. Christian B. Anfinsen and Dr. D. Carleton Gajdusek. Dr. Lipsett emphasized that the great

discoveries made by great men in the Clinical Center, needed the help and support of all of the Clinical Center employees who thereby also contributed to the steady progress in medical knowledge.

Dr. Griff T. Ross, Deputy Director of the Clinical Center, teamed up with department heads to congratulate employees with 25 years of continuous service at the the Clinical Center and to present them with certificates. It was a proud moment for these honorees and their families and friends in the audience.

Following the ceremony, a reception honoring these special employees was held in the medical board room. In conjunction with the anniversary celebration, an exhibit commemorating the Clinical Center's 25th Anniversary has been set up in the main lobby of the Clinical Center.

Some things at the Clinical Center may change, but the people remain the same: supportive, loyal and dedicated. Congratulations!



This exhibit was designed especially for the anniversary celebration and appears with others in the CC main lobby.

The CC Veterans

This is part two of the special feature on the CC 25 year veterans. Because of summer vacations, only 9 CC'ers are featured this month. The remaining employees will be in future issues of *Closeup*.

Janet Lewis, dietetic assistant in the Nutrition Department, had been looking for a job at the Civil Service Commission 25 years ago, when she found a vacancy at NIH. She recalls "the beginning of things . . . the first years . . . in the salad unit of the main kitchen." She also remembers experimenting with recipes. Janet spent a lot of time moving from one function to another in the department. She remembers special patients who have been on her units and how nice they were. "I think there has been an advantage to working here," she says. "It's kind of hard to stay on one job 25 years, especially when you're young. But when you're working with nice people, you don't mind staying. I can get along with anybody," she adds with a smile.

"In July of 1953, I was driving a cab," says Robert Massey, physical therapy assistant in the Rehabilitation Department. "Some drivers had a paper and we saw the ad for needed employees. A couple of us applied and were accepted, and I've been here ever since." The farm behind the convent on Old Georgetown Road stands out most in Mr. Massey's mind. "They had corn, crops, chickens, sheep and everything out there. There was a wooded area all around the NIH."

Robert started out in the Nursing Department where he worked for a year and a half. "I started on the 9th floor as a hospital attendant," he says. "After I moved to eight, the Heart ward, a nurse named Mrs. Ellerbe and I were appointed to set up and open the 6th floor (West) unit. Right after that I received a promotion and was sent to Physical Therapy." Robert feels he has gained a lot while at the CC. "I've enjoyed working here. I've learned quite a bit, and my educa-

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tional background has improved. I find it has been a very nice place to work."

Esther Lee is a group leader in the Environmental Sanitation Control Department. After hearing about the hospital opening, she too filled out an application. "I came here as a laborer or housekeeping aide," she says. "I was an aide from 1953 to 1975. In 1975 I became a group leader." She recalls that the Clinical Center had just opened before she arrived. "Sometimes it was rough. . . at times it was con-

fusing, but it's been alright." Esther thinks it has been very pleasant working here.

Anyone who has been in the Blood Bank knows Jane Kendall, information receptionist. Jane has worked at NIH 36 years! She remembers when the Blood Bank was part of Outpatient. "I was a secretary in the Outpatient Department. The receptionist (in the Blood Bank) left and a friend (Wanda Chappell, supervisory nurse in the Blood Bank) told me about the job." Jane has held all types of jobs here in the CC. From the typing pool she went to the Cancer Travel Office, back to the typing pool, to the front desk receptionist in the main lobby, and finally to a position as secretary to the Outpatient Nursing chief, where she stayed for 14 years. "I've enjoyed every job. I enjoy jobs that move around. I enjoy people not papers." Jane recollects, "I knew Dr. Masur when he was a young man in his 30's. He was one of the most polite, enchanting men I'd ever seen." She also remembers "Top Cottage" which stood where the hospital is now. "We had all our parties there." Jane also remembers when everyone wore uniforms. "it was just like the military." She attributes her long stay to the fact that "people in my generation didn't move much because there was no place to go. It was wartime, gas was rationed, we could barely make it." However, what Jane remembers most is the people she has met and dealt with over the years. "My years have been rewarding in friendships," she says.

Foreston Gibbons is a labor leader in the Department of Environmental Sanitation Control. He came to the CC after the reduction



Janet Lewis



Robert Massey



Esther Lee



Jane Kendall



Jessie Mayhew



Foreston Gibbons



Anne Jennings



Dr. John Lynch

in force at the Bureau of Standards like some of the other CC veterans. "Ten of us came together," he says. "For the last 25 years I've enjoyed working here at Building 10. I've always had good relationships with everybody," which is most important to him.

"I went to Civil Service and asked for an application. I was told I couldn't have one unless my husband was in the service. I stepped to the next window and got an application," says Jessie Mayhew housekeeping aide in the Department of Environmental Sanitation Control. Such determination shows how Jessie has managed to stay at the CC so long. She did not know where NIH was when she was job-hunting, but she caught the bus, made it to her interview, and was eventually hired. "I didn't like it at first because it was so far." Her attitude soon changed as she began to learn more. "I've met all kinds of doctors, nurses, children, parents and people, and I'm still hanging on," she says confidently. Jessie has worked on every floor in the CC except the new South wing. Because of this, she says, "nothing is strange at NIH to me." She fondly recalls working on the 12th floor when CC Director Dr. Lipsett and Deputy Director Dr. Ross were there. Jessie thinks her good record and her ability to understand people have kept her here so long. Another factor could be her seriousness about her job. "I like to do things right," she says. "If it's your job, you should do it well."

Dr. John Lynch is chief of the Occupational Medical Service, a position he has held since coming to the CC. "It was during the Korean

War. I was in the first group in the doctors draft. After I was called to active duty for two years, I was assigned to NIH as a commissioned officer." As with other veterans, the constant growth of the physical facilities stands out in Dr. Lynch's mind. "I can't remember any time that there wasn't major construction going on." (He also adds the fact that the Clinical Center is the largest brick building in the world—"Most buildings now are made of slabs and pre-fabricated materials.") "I remember vividly when we were on the 3rd floor of Building 1, and the power plants, maintenance and shops were in the sub-basements of the same building." Another change expansion has brought is that it is now impossible to get to know everybody. "I used to get acquainted with every new employee because I gave them their pre-employment physical." Dr. Lynch misses the smaller more intimate atmosphere where people could get to know one another more closely. However, he says, "I wouldn't have stayed here if I didn't like it." The people and the environment have been enjoyable to Dr. Lynch. He also adds, "I hope I've made contributions that have been worthwhile."

Anne Jennings is a medical technologist in the Clinical Pathology Department. She started her career at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and then went to the Navy Medical Center where she watched the CC being built. "When I called to ask about a job here, I was told that the Clinical Center would not have medical technologists but I applied anyway." Anne was hired and given the job of

chief technologist. Her first job was to establish the procedures in the Microbiology Service, which she started on the 6th floor. "I remember how it was a tremendous challenge to start a Microbiology Service where we had to purchase the first microscopes, and the major equipment needed for the laboratory. When we started we had nothing. Everyone had to search to even find a catalog to order supplies. Everyone was forced to be resourceful. But today, with computers and ready-made supplies, things are different." She laughs when she remembers when a baby was admitted on the 11th floor and there were no diapers. "Someone had to go to the nearest drug store," she says. As the years went by Anne saw the need for specializing in the field of medical mycology because NIAID was studying it among many other projects. "This presented a challenge in finding rare mycoses and eventually led to research in the field." She has co-authored publications on this subject. In addition to research, Anne teaches the technologists and the doctors. "It has been an interesting and rewarding experience. . . a tremendous education meeting the different types of people."